vol.22 "Friends"

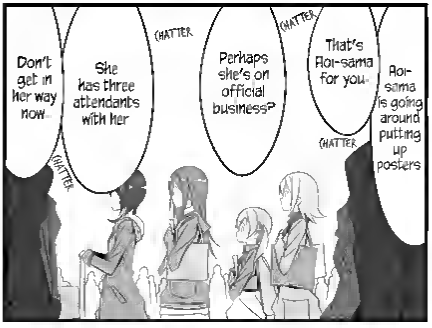
But the power to make her targets do what she wishes, "Absolute Order"
The results from the reexamination show that it is possible Aoi-sama's power does not have to do with an excellent memory, "Invisible Works."
My name is Sakurada Aoi.
Um!
Earth to Aoi, you there?
Please be my friends!
SHIZUKU
NANAO
UZUKI
Were you listening to us?
Sorry, I spaced out there for a bit...

Can't we just split up the work?
But this is the only cart we have...

Let's hurry and finish putting up these posters sensei gave us

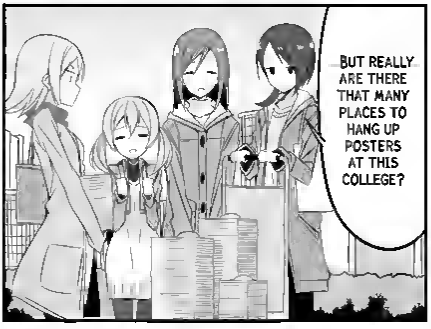
You're the only one out of all of us that could run around the campus with rolls of paper under your arms, Nanao.
That's too much for me.

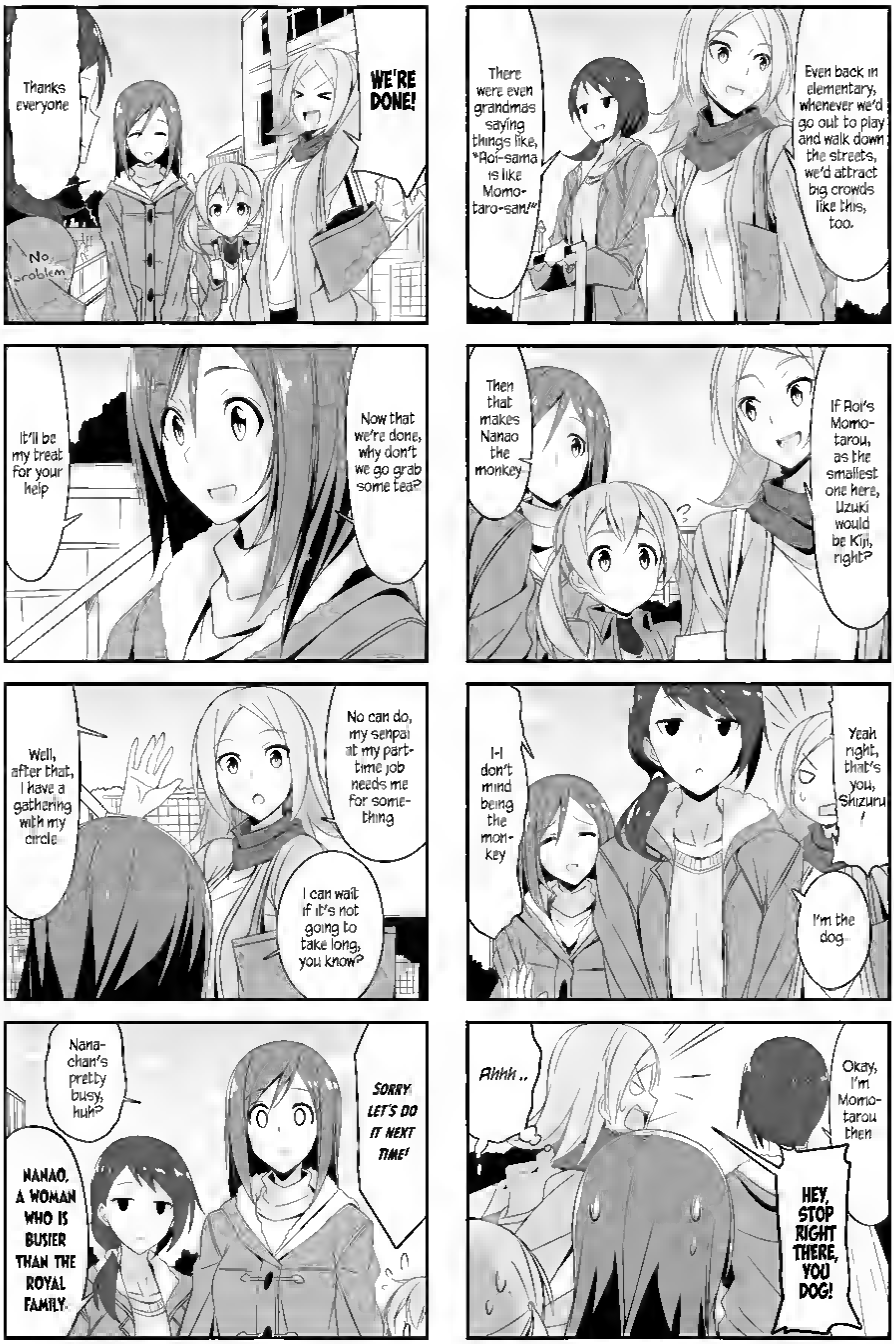
I'd like to ask why you accepted to help when you're not even related, Aoi

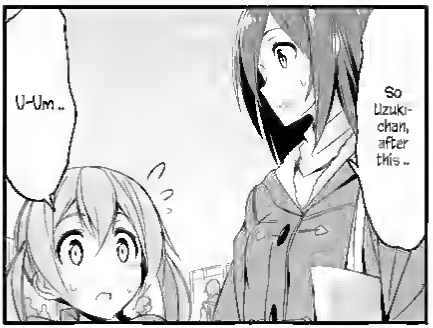

Aoi-sama is going around putting up posters
That's Aoi-sama for you.
CHATTER
Perhaps she's on official business?
CHATTER
She has three attendants with her
CHATTER
Don't get in her way now...
CHATTER

There wasn't anyone who'd help, and he looked like he was in a bit of a bind...
You're so admirable.

WE'RE JUST PUTTING UP POSTERS AND WE'RE BEING TREATED LIKE SOME KIND OF PARADE.
Sorry.


BUT REALLY ARE THERE THAT MANY PLACES TO HANG UP POSTERS AT THIS COLLEGE?


Thanks everyone
WE'RE DONE!
No problem
There were even grandmas saying things like, "Aoi-sama is like Momotaro-san!"
Even back in elementary, whenever we'd go out to play and walk down the streets, we'd attract big crowds like this, too.
Now that we're done, why don't we go grab some tea?
It'll be my treat for your help
Then that makes Nanao the monkey
If Aoi's Momotarou, as the smallest one here, Uzuki would be Kiji, right?
No can do, my senpai at my part-time job needs me for something
Well, after that, I have a gathering with my circle
I can wait if it's not going to take long, you know?
I-I don't mind being the monkey
Yeah right, that's you, Shizuru!
I'm the dog
Nana-chan's pretty busy, huh?
SORRY. LET'S DO IT NEXT TIME!
NANAO, A WOMAN WHO IS BUSIER THAN THE ROYAL FAMILY.
Ahhh..
Okay, I'm Momotarou then
HEY, STOP RIGHT THERE, YOU DOG!


U-Um..
So Uzuki-chan, after this..

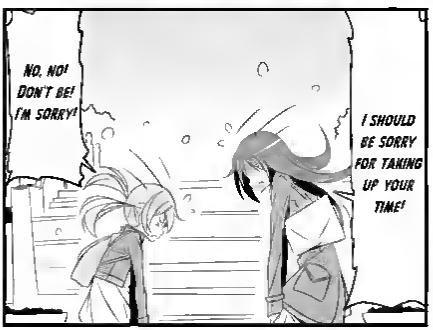
Oh..
It's always been us four, so just us three might be kind of new.
Once we got into college, Nanao's expanded her circle of friends quite a bit, after all.

Actually I have some things I need to do too..

Huh? Is it for a part-time job too, Shi-chan?
Sorry, I actually have some plans, too

I'M SORRY!
I-I see.
IT'S OKAY IT'S OKAY!

WELL, IT'S MORE LIKE I NEED TO PREPARE FOR SOME STUFF...
NO UHHH,

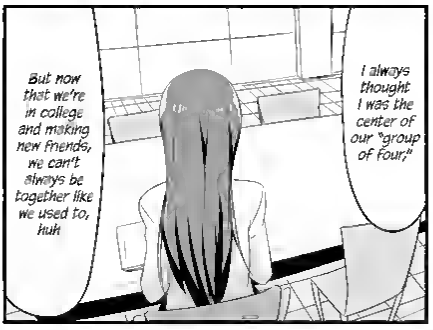

NO, NO! DON'T BE! I'M SORRY!
I SHOULD BE SORRY FOR TAKING UP YOUR TIME!

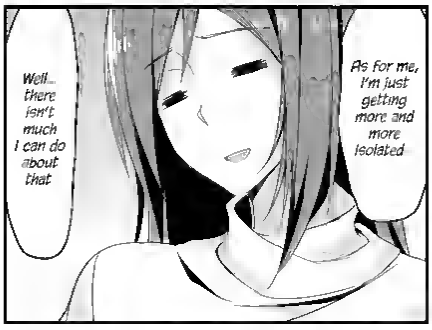
Ah, okay.
OKAY, SEE YOU!

That said, it's gotten pretty noisy on campus these days...
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

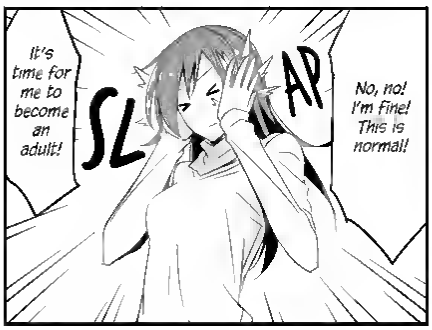
SCHOOL CAFETERIA
Everyone had things to do and they still helped me out.

Ahh, it's December, so I guess everyone's getting into the Christmas spirit

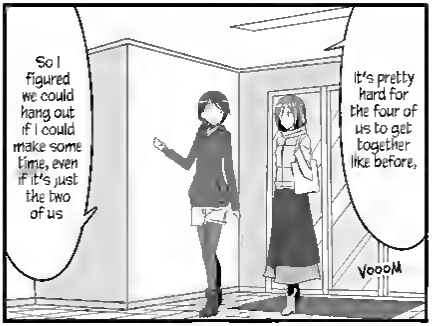

But now that we're in college and making new friends, we can't always be together like we used to, huh
I always thought I was the center of our "group of four."


Well... there isn't much I can do about that
As for me, I'm just getting more and more isolated

I'm not in the position where I can tie them down any longer, being the cheat that I am...
I shouldn't try to invite them out so much anymore, since I'll just cause them trouble by being with them.


It's time for me to become an adult!
SL
AP
No, no! I'm fine! This is normal!

I get the feeling I'm the only one that hasn't changed since our elementary days
:)


So I figured we could hang out if I could make some time, even if it's just the two of us
It's pretty hard for the four of us to get together like before,
VoooM

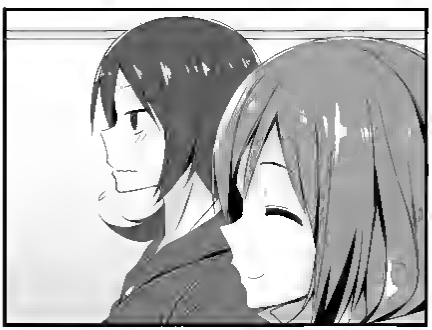
I have some time tomorrow since it's been a while. Why don't we grab some tea? It'll just be us two though, since Nanao and Uzuki are busy >_<
FEW DAYS LATER
It's been so long since we had tea together.

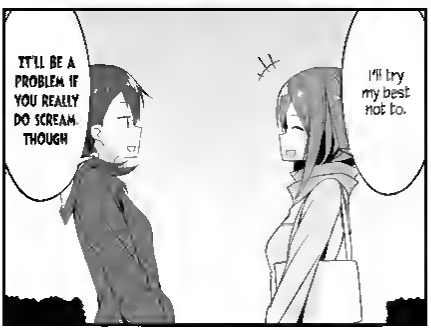
That's why I have you all to myself today, Aoi.

Shi-chan
Sorry for the wait, Aoi.

That means I'll have you all to myself today, too.

The walls are pretty thick, so feel free to scream all you want.
I want to take it easy, so are you okay with my dorm room?



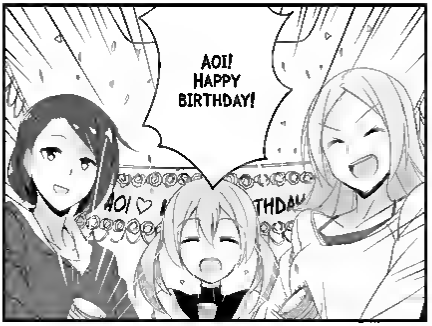

IT'LL BE A PROBLEM IF YOU REALLY DO SCREAM, THOUGH
I'll try my best not to.

THIRTY SECONDS LATER
Huh, that was pretty fast
202
You can come in now
That's okay.
Oh... it's a mess in there, so wait here for a bit.
202
Sorry for the intrusion
P
I don't mind at a— Ah
HUH!? IT'S PITCH BLACK!?
KERCHAK
I'M NOT SURE WHAT KIND OF MISUNDER-STANDING YOU'RE UNDER, BUT THAT ISN'T IT, OKAY?
S-SORRY. YOU DO LIVE BY YOURSELF SO I GUESS YOU HAVE A LOT OF THINGS GOING ON PLEASE GO ON AHEAD
HYAAH!?
FLASH
COULD YOU STOP TRYING TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE I'M MAKING EXCUSES HERE?
IT'S OKAY! I'M NOT REALLY FAMILIAR WITH THAT STUFF SO I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO INCONSID-ERATE!

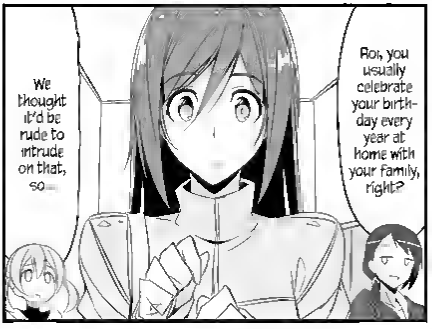
Um... That is...
T-TO WHAT MAY I OWE YOU THIS VISIT, AOI-SAMA ...!?
How? Try doing it.
And like, that kitten bit my finger! It was soooo cute!
Could you do a handstand and go "woof!" for me...?
Just kidding...
C'MON, TRY IT, NANA-CHAN.
WHAT, WHY!? I DON'T WANNA!
Here, here!
Yes, I un-der-stand.
I under-stand.
Yes.
JUST KIDDING.
Woof!!
EH?

Please be my friends!
It appears her power activated subconsciously due to the fact that she did not understand how it worked.
Regardless, we should have noticed much earlier... We apologize, Your Highness...
We will review our exams and make them more precise.
Based on the findings of our research, we surmise that her "orders" in her younger years lasted only for a few days.
I suppose Aoi-sama's talent and kindness may have resulted in our late discovery of this...
It may be named "Absolute Order," but we can assert that its potency is much stronger than ever before.
No, it's quite the opposite.
Well, whatever her power is, it doesn't change how beautiful Aoi is.
That's not even related right now! Like at all!!!
The fact that Aoi is the one who has this power
Is why there has not been a single incident thus far, don't you think?

...You don't become friends because you ask to be.
Hey dad, will friends made from a power always remain as "fake friends?"


AOI! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
AOI
THDAY

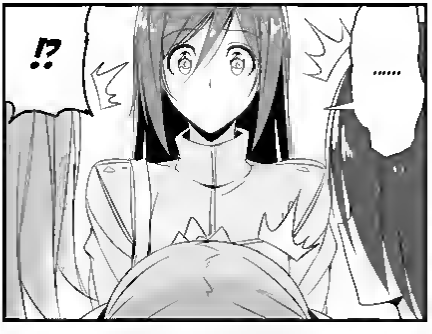
Those girls whom are no longer under the influence of the coercive motion of "friends"
Even if the trigger was due to the coercive nature of your power,

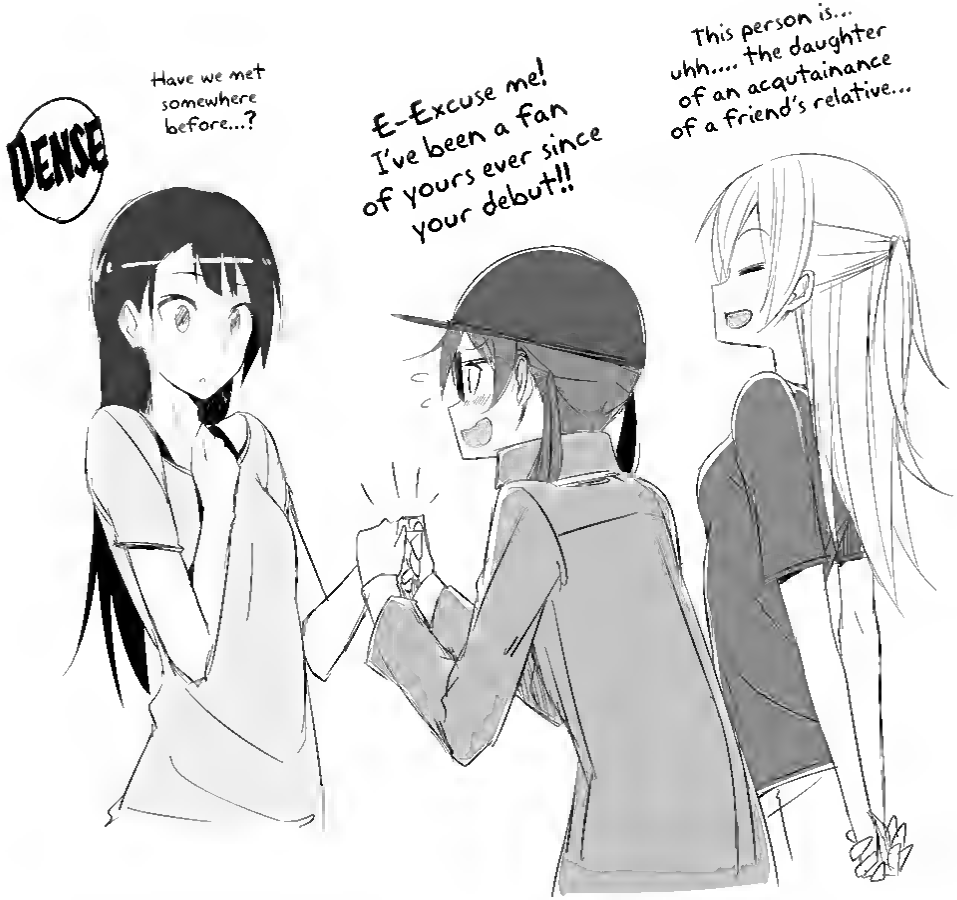

We thought it'd be rude to intrude on that, so...
Aoi, you usually celebrate your birthday every year at home with your family, right?

Aoi.
Are undoubtedly acting on their own volition

This is kinda early, but we wanted to celebrate with just the four of us at least once.

READ THE DARN MOOD, SHIZUKU-SAN!
FOR NOW, CAN YOU TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES?
Oh, sorry
Wah
Wah wah


!?
.....


DENSE
Have we met somewhere before...?
E-Excuse me! I've been a fan of yours ever since your debut!!
This person is... uhh.... the daughter of an acquaintance of a friend's relative...

《First Print Overview》

・Manga Time Kirara Miracle 2015 - May, Jun-Aug, Oct-Nov
2016 - Jan-Feb, April-May, July

・Special Illustration

This volume is a compilation of all the above.

春日歩

桜庭ういと
Ui Sakuraba

▶一見ぼっちの人と思えるくらいの静かな女の子ですが、実は人気アイドルグループのセンターを務めるほどの実力者。学校では目立たないように変装しています。

米雪玲子
Reiko Yonekura

▶アイドル水蓮と同じ学校に通う同級生。ちょっと天然でおとぼけなところがあるが、実はとてもしっかり者で、みんなの面倒見がいい。

Illustration by Ayumu Kasuga

城下町のダンデライオン 2
AYUMU KASUGA
春日歩
芳文社

Illustration by Ayumu Kasuga

キャラクター身長対比
Character height comparison

▲現代社会の小学生高学年から中学生ういとの低身長が中心に大事です。中学で急激に成長を遂げる先は　この時点で高の身長設定です。

衣装デザイン
Costume design

▲基本全てユニークであるものの、キコマの特徴と全体が統一されるようにのびで一貫を見せることなく設定することが多くあります。